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**Promotion and protection of human rights: Convention
on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

**Letter dated 5 May 2008 from the Permanent Representative of
Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I am writing concerning the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In that regard, I have the honour to transmit the annexed joint communiqué signed by the States parties to the Convention. I should be very grateful if it could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 70 (e). I should also like to request that the communiqué be made available at the commemorative ceremony to take place on 12 May 2008.

(Signed) Claude Heller
Ambassador

Permanent Representative to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 5 May 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Joint communiqué

3 May 2008

The Governments of Bangladesh, Croatia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Gabon, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Jamaica, Jordan, Mali, Mexico, Namibia, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, San Marino, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain and Tunisia celebrate today the entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.

We, the States parties to the Convention, firmly believe that this instrument represents a landmark for human rights in promoting, protecting and ensuring the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all persons with disabilities, in promoting the respect for their inherent dignity and in recognizing the richness of the diversity of the human family as well as the importance for persons with disabilities of their individual autonomy and independence.

We are convinced that the implementation of this comprehensive and integral Convention will strengthen our resolve to promote and protect the human rights and dignity of persons with disabilities and will make a significant contribution to redress their profound social disadvantages and promote their participation in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural spheres with equal opportunities. It constitutes also a very important step forward in the consolidation of the social development of our countries.

Therefore, as we commemorate the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights this year, we welcome the fact that a significant number of States around the world are in the process of signing and ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and we look forward to its becoming a universal instrument.
